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their hands to it, will prove one of the most potent and far-reaching. Let it go forth on its beautiful mission attended by the prayers of all those who wish to see the sword forever sheathed and the warlike drum-beat forever hushed.

#### DEATH OF DAVID DUDLEY FIELD.

David Dudley Field, the eminent New York jurist, died at his home No. 2 Gramercy Park, New York city, on the 13th ult., at the age of 89 years. He had just returned in apparently good health on the previous Wednesday from a six months' sojourn in Europe, whither he had gone to visit his daughter, Lady Musgrave, in England. He was suddenly struck down with pneumonia and died in twenty-four hours. His interest in the cause of peace and his connection with the peace movement make it eminently fitting that we should give more than a passing notice to the event.

Of his great success as a lawyer and his position for many years at the head of the New York bar, it is not to our purpose to speak, nor of his political career, first as a Democrat and afterward as a member of the parties through whose efforts slavery was checked and finally overthrown. His great work was not done at the bar nor in politics, but in the reform and codification of the law. In 1839 he published an article on the "Reform of the Judiciary System" and followed this in subsequent years by other valuable contributions on the same subject. In 1882 he published his Code, on which he spent many years of arduous labor. This Code was afterwards adopted not only by New York but also by twenty-three other States and Territories. It greatly simplified the forms of procedure in the courts. A few days before he died he said it was his one great ambition to have his Codes adopted all over the world, and he thought it only a question of time till they would be.

While attending the British Association for the Promotion of Social Science at Manchester in September, 1866, he proposed the appointment of a Committee to prepare and report to the Association the outlines of an International Code, with a view of having a complete Code formed to present to governments for their ultimate sanction. The proposition was favorably received and a committee of jurists from different nations appointed. This led finally to Mr. Field's writing his own Draft Outlines of an International Code, covering more than 600 pages, a work of great merit in its own field. His purpose in proposing this matter to the Social Science Association was not simply to have international law, as it then existed, codified, but also to have "such modifications and improvements as the more matured civilization of the present age should seem to require." The Code was to be "such a one as should win the commendation of good and wise men, for international regulations, in

the interests of humanity and peace." He believed that much might be done "by the authority of public law for the peace and prosperity of the world."

This was really the beginning of the work of reforming international law which has been going on, in different ways, ever since, and which is likely to progress much more rapidly in the immediate future. When the Association for the Reform and Codification of International Law was organized in 1873, through the efforts of Dr. Miles and Elihu Burritt with the co-operation of the English Peace Society, Mr. Field was one of the first to take an active and prominent part in its work. He was chairman for a long time of the International Code Committee.

In July, 1890, Mr. Field presided at the London Peace Congress, the second of the series of annual universal peace congresses which began at Paris during the Exposition in 1889. He attended nearly all of the sessions for four days and showed the deepest interest in all the proceedings. In his opening address he made a powerful plea in behalf of international arbitration, saying that "most of the disagreements which arise between the governments of the world can, and should be, settled by disinterested arbiters." After citing numerous cases where arbitration had been successful he uttered the following sentence whose tenderness and directness much impressed the Congress:

"Would that, in some new evangel of peace, a voice could be heard and heeded, calling to France and Germany: Put your swords into their sheaths, great and brave nations; each of you has overcome the other many times in battle; strive now to overcome in the contest of peace; be rivals, not in arms, but in arts; in the former you could only hurt each other: in the latter you would help each other and help, too, the world."

Mr. Field was not a non-resistant; in fact, he believed strongly in the right of self-defence by the use of deadly force. But he had a profound aversion to war of any kind, and believed that if good men would turn their attention sincerely and earnestly to removing the causes of war it might be entirely banished from the earth. He believed that the war history of the world is a history of wickedness and of crime, and not of honor and glory. In a paper sent in August last to the Chicago Peace Congress, which he was unable to attend, he spoke with a deeply religious and solemn earnestness about the sin of man-killing:

"If there be, as I believe there is, a moral government of the world, it is impossible that the Supreme Ruler of all things should look with complacency upon the maiming and killing of those whom he has made a little lower than the angels, the destruction of their habitations and of the fruits of their labors. It must be that at some time and in some way He will manifest his displeasure and punish the transgressors. Indeed we have the express admonition of Christ himself: 'Put up again thy sword into his place, for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.' I wish that some com-

petent historian would undertake to show by examples how nearly this prediction has been fulfilled."

He also contributed a paper to the Congress of Jurisprudence and Law Reform on "American Progress in Jurisprudence." No better a summary has recently appeared of the contributions made by the United States to the improvement of law both national and international. Though loving and honoring all other nations, he was an American of the truest type and spoke with the deepest appreciation of what his country had done for the advancement of civilization. In this paper he said: "The United States have also done more than any other nation toward making international arbitration a maxim of public policy and an article of public law. Within the present century there have been at least fifty-eight (the actual number is nearly eighty [Ed.] instances of arbitration between nations, in thirty-five of which the United States were parties."

Mr. Field's work will not cease with his death, but will go on deepening and widening, and he will be enrolled as one of the truest promoters not only of a better law but also of a better feeling and of better and more humane relations between the nations of the world.

#### THE PROPOSED TRUCE.

In face of the enormous and ever-developing armaments of Europe, the question has often come to every thoughtful man: "What can be done practically to stay the evil and finally to remove it?" If it goes on it must lead ultimately not only to financial ruin but also to such a bloody convulsion as the world has never seen. Shall we stand by and see the awful avalanche slowly accumulating and gathering strength for its final death-plunge, or shall we seek to check its growth and then slowly melt it away? What shall be done? Where shall one begin? Who will take the initiative? It is evident that these questions are now being asked with a great depth of earnestness and with a sort of hopeful despair, if one may use the expression, which indicate that some practical means of procedure may soon be discovered.

It is possible, and we are inclined to think probable, that a really wise and practical way of approaching the delicate problem has been discovered in the proposed truce till the year 1900 put forward by Mr. Jules Simon, and supported by Senator Marcoartu of Spain and by the Marquis Pandolfi of Italy. The seriousness of the feeling on the subject is evidenced by the fact that a similar proposition for a truce of ten years has been made by Mr. Anspach of Brussels, even before Mr. Simon's proposal; and by the additional propositions of Mr. Blowitz, Paris Correspondent of the *London Times*, for a reduction of the time of military service to one year, and of Dr. Grelling of Berlin that the European States should pledge themselves not to increase their armaments any more for a period of three years.

The proposition for a truce has been taken up by the International Peace Bureau on the initiative of the International Arbitration and Peace Association of London, and a circular letter addressed to all the peace societies of the world asking whether they favor the idea and if, so, in what manner the Governments shall be approached in order to induce them to hold a conference on the subject. So far as we know the societies are all strongly favoring the idea of a truce, on the ground that it will not only stop, in all probability, the further growth of armaments, but that it will almost certainly result in a practical scheme for disarmament. The International Peace Bureau, which has already been officially recognized by both Switzerland and Denmark, will soon draw up, as the societies shall indicate, some plan for inducing the Governments to enter into some such truce as is proposed, by which they shall pledge themselves not to go to war for a specified number of years, and not to increase their armaments during this period.

We do not see how any European Government can find any valid reason for not entering by treaty into such an arrangement. On the contrary, there is every reason why they should all do so. If it shall be entered into conjointly by all of them, no one will gain any advantage over another.

If any nation should refuse to consider favorably a proposition for such a truce, it would be almost demonstrative evidence that its professions of a desire for peace were false and that its real wish was for war.

International co-operation is becoming increasingly common, and such an exhibition of it would be worthy of the great nations of to-day whose ships are hailing each other on every sea, and whose life, commercial, intellectual, religious, is interlocked on every shore. Such a truce, in addition to its direct effects in checking the growth of militarism, would be of inestimable value in promoting this international co-operation on which hereafter all the best interests of the world so much depend.

If the Interparliamentary Peace Union, which is now nearly as large in membership as any single national parliament, would undertake to secure a hearing for the proposed truce before the separate parliaments, it is not at all unlikely that a Conference of the Governments could be speedily arranged to prepare the details of the truce.

Following the example set by the Swiss Federal Council, the Danish Chamber of Deputies has recently, by a large majority, voted a subsidy of about seven hundred francs to the International Peace Bureau. The sum of money is small, but the vote is full of meaning. The voting of support to a peace bureau is a new thing in the acts of parliaments. We congratulate our indefatigable friend, Mr. Bajer, on the position which his country is thus taking in the peace movement.